

Speech and Language Services: OFF the island of Montreal

For preschool-aged children:

If concerns are regarding language only:

- 1) Parents should request that a file be officially opened at their area CLSC (centre local de services communautaires:
<http://wpp01.msss.gouv.qc.ca/appl/M02/M02RechInfoSante.asp> to find the CLSC based on postal code) and request a language screening.
- 2) If there are no language services at their area CLSC, parents can contact their area CSSS (<http://sante.gouv.qc.ca/repertoire-ressources/> for a listing of all CSSS) to find out where their child can receive an assessment in the public sector in their geographical area (e.g. at a local hospital).

If the concern is about Autism Spectrum Disorder/Early Developmental Impairment (Global Developmental Delay):

Parents should contact their CSSS to request a multidisciplinary evaluation. If services are not available, families can contact the Central Intake Department, room D-289, fax: 514-412-4398, phone: 514-412-4496. Availability of services will be determined following a triage.

If the concern is related to stuttering:

A request can be made for a child to be referred directly to their area rehabilitation centre by the child's doctor. (Centre de réadaptation en déficience physique: <http://www.aerdpq.org/les-crdp/coordonnees>). However, if the child is younger than kindergarten age and lives on the South Shore, he/she should first receive speech therapy at the CLSC or in private practice (see link below).

For any language concerns in a school-aged child, parents should discuss their concerns with the child's teacher and principal and request school speech and language services (see note below concerning children with severe learning difficulties).*

Alternatively, families may opt to consult a speech-language pathologist in **private practice**: Ordre des orthophonistes et audiologistes du Québec, www.ooaq.qc.ca (click on Où consulter?), or 514-282-9123.

*Our tertiary-care mandate allows us to serve, irrespective of the child's geographical location or age (0-18 years), children presenting with the following conditions: newly diagnosed neurological condition or unstable neurological condition (e.g., epilepsy), resonance disorders (including disorders due to craniofacial differences like cleft lip and palate), voice disorders (e.g., vocal hoarseness), traumatic brain injury (via Neurotrauma Program), or severe learning difficulties with or without concomitant attention issues (via Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder Clinic or Learning Progress Clinic of the Child Development Program; a recent psychology evaluation is required). In the case of children with severe learning difficulties and/or attention problems, a prerequisite is that the difficulties persist despite modifications that were already put in place, suggesting that the current diagnosis is being questioned. The above information is applicable irrespective of the language(s) spoken by the child.

For more information on speech and language development, visit:

<http://www.thechildren.com/en/departments/index.aspx?myDep=S&ID=63>